AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:

a linear light source for generating a light source light;

a light guide plate including an end side and a broad side~~;~~ and

a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of light transmitted therethrough from the light source ~~light, capable of transmitting light~~ and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate,

wherein the light source light is input to the end side, is propagated through the light guide plate, and is output through the broad side, ~~and~~

the light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the light guide plate, wherein

a light source amount reducing member for reducing the amount of light transmitted therethrough from the light source and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate.

2. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the light amount reducing member is in the shape of an "L" extending from the end side to the broad side.

3. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the light amount reducing member is made of a conductive material.

4. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the light amount reducing member is connected to a ground.

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus, comprising:

a backlight unit, including:

a linear light source for generating a light source light;

a light guide plate comprising an end side and a broad side~~;~~ and

a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of light transmitted

therethrough from the light source ~~light, capable of transmitting light~~ and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate,

~~wherein~~ the light source light is input to the end side, is propagated through the light guide plate, and is output through the broad side, ~~and~~

the light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the light guide plate~~.~~, and

a liquid crystal panel provided on the broad side of the ~~back light~~ backlight unit, capable of performing liquid crystal display using the light source light of the ~~back light~~ backlight unit, wherein

a light source amount reducing member for reducing the amount of light transmitted therethrough from the light source and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate.

6-14 (Cancelled)